

Response - March 6, 2007
U.S. Application Serial No. 10/775,647

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IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

- 1.-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) A method for supporting the growth of eukaryotic cells *in vitro*, said method comprising the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate comprising stomach submucosal tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the stomach submucosal tissue comprises the tunica submucosa delaminated from both the tunica muscularis and at least the luminal portion of the tunica mucosa.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells with a cell growth substrate comprises culturing the cells on cultureware that has been coated with fluidized submucosal tissue.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue and liquid cell culture media.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises a powder form of stomach submucosal tissue.
10. (Previously presented) A method for growing eukaryotic fastidious cells *in vitro*, said method comprising

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contacting said cells *in vitro* with a cell growth substrate comprising stomach submucosal tissue of a warm-blooded vertebrate under conditions conducive to the proliferation of said cells.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 710, wherein the stomach submucosal tissue comprises the tunica submucosa delaminated from both the tunica muscularis and at least the luminal portion of the tunica mucosa.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 710 wherein the step of contacting the eukaryotic cells with a cell growth substrate comprises culturing the cells on cultureware that has been coated with fluidized submucosal tissue.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 710, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 710, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises fluidized stomach submucosal tissue and liquid cell culture media.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 710, wherein the cell growth substrate comprises a powder form of stomach submucosal tissue.